



NEWS RELEASE

Xcel Energy Media Relations
1800 Larimer
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 294-2300
www.xcelenergy.com

June 17, 2014

Xcel Energy files for electric rate increase

DENVER – Xcel Energy filed with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today, a \$137.7 million increase (approximately 4.9 percent overall) for 2015 to support investments being made to reduce emissions and to upgrade and modernize our infrastructure – investments that will result in cleaner air and a better environment for our Colorado customers..

“We are proposing a moderate price increase to support projects that replace older coal-fired power plants with new, efficient natural gas-fired plants and additionally add state-of-the-art emission controls to existing coal-fired plants to dramatically reduce air emissions. These projects are necessary to comply with a state air quality plan approved four years ago by the Colorado General Assembly and state and federal regulatory agencies,” said David Eves, president and CEO of Public Service Co. of Colorado, an Xcel Energy company. “These investments will result in cleaner air, a better environment and a more resilient and reliable energy system with the flexibility to integrate additional renewable energy (wind and solar energy) resources, providing value to our customers for decades to come.”

If the filing is approved, typical residential bills would increase by 5.3 percent or by \$3.96 per month in 2015 based on an average usage of 632 kilowatt-hours. Typical small-business customers’ bills would increase 5 percent or \$6.35 per month in 2015 based on an average use of 1123 kilowatt-hours.

Xcel Energy has requested that the new rates go into effect early next year; the CPUC is expected to hold public hearings prior to implementation.

Among the notable (but not all) components of the overall increase:

Projects to reduce emissions: Nearly \$1 billion of investment by 2016 will fund the following projects:

- State-of-the-art emission controls in 2014 on the Pawnee plant near Brush, Colo. and on the Hayden plant in Northwest Colo. in 2015 and 2016

- A new highly efficient natural gas-fired combined-cycle power plant at Cherokee plant (north of downtown Denver)
- The Clean Air Clean Jobs plan (CACJ) will be fully complete by 2017 when the Valmont coal-fired plant near Boulder Colo. is retired and the Cherokee 4 plant is fuel switched from coal to natural gas.

Property taxes:

- Xcel Energy is the largest property tax-payer in Colorado to our state and local government entities. The company has experienced significant tax increases from upgrades to the power system, much of which has not been reflected in rates currently charged to customers.

Depreciation:

- Depreciation expenses are increasing, and are impacted by the early retirement of nearly one-third of our older coal-fired plants

The company is also requesting approval of a rider that will become effective on January 1, 2016 to reflect the remainder on the nearly \$1 billion of CACJ investments being completed by 2016. The average monthly bill increase in 2016 will be \$1.06 (1.35%) for residential customers and \$1.85 (1.4%) for commercial customers.

Additional information on the electric rate case filing announced today will soon be available on the Xcel Energy website, **xcelenergy.com**; it will provide more rate case information, electric energy savings and safety tips.

Customers who anticipate or are having a difficult time paying their bill should call Xcel Energy right away at 1-800-895-4999. The company can create a payment plan to help customers catch up on the amounts owed plus provide information about our company's energy assistance programs as well as state and non-profit organizations that offer energy assistance funds.

Xcel Energy (NYSE: XEL) is a major U.S. electricity and natural gas company with regulated operations in eight Western and Midwestern states. Xcel Energy provides a comprehensive portfolio of energy-related products and services to 3.4 million electricity customers and 1.9 million natural gas customers through its regulated operating companies. Company headquarters are located in Minneapolis. More information is available at www.xcelenergy.com.

#